

LABOR MARKET RESULTS

Wage Rates

One important aspect of this survey dealt with the estimation of hourly wage rates paid by employers to seasonal field workers and non-seasonal employees in Florida's ornamentals industries. A limited amount of piece rate information was also estimated.

Selected Hand Skills

Two major types of hand skills were singled out for wage rate estimation: planting/potting and hand harvesting. In contrast with fruit and vegetable industries, there is much less of a wage rate differential between these types of hand skills in ornamentals. For example, foliage and fern workers receive slightly less per hour for planting and/or potting when compared with hand harvesting. For seasonal ornamental workers as a whole, the wage rates are almost identical for the two seasons surveyed (Table 16).

For each type of hand skill, there were modest wage rate increases in the 1986/87 and 1987/88 seasons. For foliage workers, wage rates for planting/potting activities increased from an average of \$4.13 per hour in 1986/87 to \$4.29 per hour in 1987/88. For fern workers involved with harvest operations, average wage rates increased from \$5.32 per hour in 1986/87 to \$5.50 per hour in 1987/88 (Table 16).

Table 16. Average Hourly Wage Rates for Selected Hand Skills, Ornamentals Industries, Seasonal Workers, 1986/87 and 1987/88 Seasons

Commodity / Industry	1986/87		1987/88	
	Average Hourly Wage		Average Hourly Wage	
	Planting/Potting	Hand Harvest	Planting/Potting	Hand Harvest
Foliage	4.13	4.54	4.29	4.59
Fern	4.67	5.32	4.83	5.50
Ornamentals	4.45	4.43	4.52	4.55
All Horticultural Industries	3.95	5.28	4.00	5.59

Selected Piece Rates

A limited amount of piece rate data was obtained from the survey. In the fern industry, the average piece rate for cutting fern was estimated to be 18 cents per bunch for seasonal workers and 19 cents per bunch for full time workers in the 1986/87 industry. For the 1987/88